

CROPS

The 2000 crop season got off to a great start due to cooperative weather during most of the month of April and prior months. Crops were planted earlier and at a more rapid pace than ever before. Fifty-nine percent of the oats were already planted by April 2nd. This compares with 55% in 1999 and the five year average of 25%. By April 30, 58% of the corn crop had been planted. This compares to 8% in 1999 and the five year average of 25%. Six percent of the soybeans were in the ground by this date. This compares to 0% in 1999 and the five year average of 2%. Rainfall was adequate across the state during the growing season with the southern half of the state receiving more rain than the northern half. The wheat crop developed ahead of normal with a minimal of disease problems this year due to the mild temperatures and adequate moisture during the spring. By May 28th, the crop had developed to 78% filled, compared to 56% in 1999, and a five year average of 40%. An estimated 13% was turning yellow compared with 5% in 1999 and the five-year average of 6%. The crop was rated 17% excellent, 54% good, 22% fair, 5% poor, and 2% very poor on May 26.

Timely rains and average temperatures during June and July helped the corn and soybean crops mature ahead of the five year average. By the middle of May, 99% of the corn crop and 84% of the soybean crop had been planted, which compares with the five year averages of 72% and 33% respectively. The crop continued to progress and by the end of July, 47% of the corn crop was in the dough stage compared to 37% in 1999 and 18% for the five-year average. The soybean crop had 63% of the crop setting pods. This compares with only 47% in 1999 and 25% for the five year average. However, during the month of August, above average precipitation occurred statewide. Some areas of the state received as much as six to eight inches of rain at a time. The rains kept coming, but not all areas of the state were receiving the much needed rains. Topsoil moisture by the end of August was rated as nine percent very short, 33% short, 52% adequate, and six percent surplus. The Central and Eastern districts of the state were reporting the most stress on the crops due to lack of moisture. By the end of August, the Central district's topsoil moisture was reported as 58% short to very short, while the Eastern district topsoil moisture was reported as 65% short to very short.

Harvest began ahead of normal in the first week of September but was slowed during the month of September and the first part of October due to frequent rain showers. However, nearly ideal weather conditions in late October allowed farmers to completely wrap up harvest by the middle of November. As of November 12th 99% of the corn crop and 99% of the soybean crop had been harvested. This compares with the five-year averages of 94% and 98% respectively.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX, 1970-2000

Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/	Year	Index 1/
1970	64	1980	92	1990	109
1971	83	1981	113	1991	99
1972	84	1982	115	1992	128
1973	83	1983	66	1993	112
1974	68	1984	97	1994	136
1975	100	1985	120	1995	102
1976	95	1986	112	1996	118
1977	100	1987	99	1997	121
1978	97	1988	66	1998	127
1979	114	1989	110	1999	124
				2000	133

1/ 1977=100

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX

1970-2000 (1977=100)

